

March 5, 1974

Journal. We adopted a second Warner amendment. Also a third amendment on page 800 of the Journal. Fourth amendment on page 800 of the Journal, Senator Warner's, and we are now considering Senator Whitney's amendment on page 801 of the Journal. It was laid over from yesterday.

PRESIDENT: All right, we're back to Senator Whitney's amendment then on page 801. Senator Whitney, do you want to continue the discussion? Senator Whitney, your microphone switch must be turned off there. Why don't you flick that up and let's see what happens. Let's hear you. Nope, still don't get you. Well, that won't help any. All right. Yeah, Senator Carpenter.

SENATOR CARPENTER: The Executive Council is getting bids in order to replace this whole system in this Body and it should be, we should get the bids, I presume, sometime next week. And we're on the job, we're trying to correct the problem and when we get the bids, we'll submit them to the Council and they'll make the decision. Then I'll maybe pass it on to the Body.

PRESIDENT: Senator Whitney, if you would be more comfortable now. I think your microphone is fixed. I didn't realize the whole unit had gone off up here. Let's try it again and see what you have there. See if it's operative now.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I'll be very brief. All this amendment is going to do is be in reference to the present state law, it would increase the insured needs such that some of those schools that do not receive any equalization aid now will get some. Now, this, these insured needs is what is in the Duis bill and it would not interfere with this bill in any way and it would not change the amount of foundation aid. It would not change the total amount of equalization aid. It would just simply be a different distribution of the equalization aid. Now when we realize that right now there are Class 3 school districts getting as low as \$75 whereas there are other school districts getting as high as \$260, we know (can you hear me?) (turn me up a little please).....

PRESIDENT: We've got you turned up, that's all the volume there is Senator. It's just gone off again.

SENATOR WHITNEY: We know there's a difference between \$75 and \$258 is not a satisfactory figure. Mr. President, now it sounds better. Under the present law, here's a K-12 school district getting only \$75 per pupil whereas other school districts getting as high as \$258 per pupil. That is too great a spread. For some to get 3 1/2 times as much state aid as others is not right. Those people who get the \$75 are paying the same amount of sales and income tax as people receiving \$258 and not only that but they are paying a lot more property tax per pupil and so what this does, it permits say that school only getting \$75 to get a little more state aid under the present law. Now, I've gone down and checked this with the computer and I'm correct in my statements. Now, there has been a statement that section 14 will take care of hardship cases. But let me point out that section 14 will not take care of many school districts in the state. In order to get hardship aid under section 14, you only get it if the school district has less than 35% of its operating expenses that it paid in the form of state aid. Now, some school districts get a lot more than this. Now, of course, I'm speaking at this moment of LB772 where they have the 35%. But this illustrates that we're not even planning on taking care